



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

14 DECEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Bakersfield – Police Arrest Two for Gang Participation, Attempted Murder, and Other Charges

(U) The Bakersfield Police Department arrested 28-year-old Marlon Burch and 36-year-old Tyrobe Lindsey for gang participation, attempted murder, firing into an occupied dwelling, and felons in possession of firearms among other related charges. Officers responded to reports of a shooting near Belle Terrace and gathered suspect vehicle information. The suspect vehicle was located, but drove away as officers approached it, leading them on a chase. The driver yielded a short time later. During the pursuit, two loaded firearms were discarded from the vehicle.

SOURCE: 11 December 2020, [KGET](#)

(U) Long Beach – Police Seize More than 5,000 Pounds of Fireworks and Arrest Man

(U) Erik Ramos, 30, was arrested and booked into the Long Beach Police Department after police served a search warrant at his home and discovered thousands of pounds of fireworks and some illegal firearms. Ramos was booked for carrying a concealed weapon in his vehicle and possession of dangerous fireworks. The charges were misdemeanors, and Ramos was released after posting bond. Police have not yet revealed what led them to obtain a search warrant for the home.

SOURCE: 12 December 2020, [MyNewsLA](#)

(U) Pasadena – Stolen COVID-19 Relief Funds Used to Buy Maserati SUV

(U) In October, police discovered \$197,000 cash, 17 unemployment debit cards, methamphetamine, and a gun when they pulled over Robert Sloan Mateer, 30, in a Maserati SUV. Mateer obtained the cash, cards, and Maserati as part of a COVID-19 relief scam using “thousands” of fraudulent identities. 14 of the 17 cards contained \$133,000 in unemployment funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in March. A federal grand jury in November charged Mateer with possession of at least 15 or more unauthorized access devices with intent to defraud, aggravated identity theft, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of ammunition.

SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [The Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) Union City – Gang Member Arrested in Connection with 2019 Murder of Two Boys

(U) Carlos Gilberto Zepeda, 20, was arrested last week on charges that he participated in the killings of 11-year-old Kevin Hernandez and 14-year-old Sean Withington. Zepeda faces two murder counts as well as related gang charges and gun enhancements. Alameda County authorities previously arrested Jason Cornejo, 18, and a then-17-year-old boy from Hayward who remains in juvenile court on the same charges. Investigators have linked the shooting to a longstanding dispute between two street gangs in the Union City area, where the killings occurred.

SOURCE: 11 December 2020, [CBS](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Los Angeles Gang Member Arrested in Mexico on 2017 Murder Charge

(U) Colima – A man who shot and killed the mother of his then two-year-old child in front of their South

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Los Angeles home in 2017 has been arrested in Mexico. Officials in Mexico detained Compton-born Andres Zambrano, 30, while he was eating at a restaurant. After the killing, Zambrano took flight to avoid prosecution, but was charged with murder in a California Superior Court. Zambrano had stated that he would flee to Mexico or Chicago, where the known gang member and convicted felon had ties, according to a wanted poster by the FBI. Zambrano was listed as one of its “ten most wanted fugitives.” SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [KTLA](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Multiple People Stabbed After Thousands Gather for Demonstrations

(U) Washington DC – Thousands of rallygoers flocked to Washington DC on Saturday to dispute election results. Amidst the demonstrations, four people were stabbed near a bar identified as a gathering point for Proud Boys, a male-chauvinist organization with ties to white nationalism. Victims were hospitalized and suffered possibly life-threatening injuries. It was not immediately clear with which groups the attackers or the injured might have been affiliated. The violence escalated after an evening of faceoffs with counter-protesters that took place near the bar, Black Lives Matter Plaza, Franklin Square, and other spots around downtown of the capital city.

SOURCE: 12 December 2020, [Washington Post](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Russia Suspected in Major Cyber Attack on US

(U) Washington DC – Russian hackers working for the Kremlin are believed to be behind an attack into US government computer systems at the departments of Treasury and Commerce that may have lasted months before detected. Hackers reportedly broke into the email systems at those government departments, but the full extent of the breach is not immediately clear as officials try to make an assessment. There are concerns that hackers may have penetrated other government departments and perhaps private companies as well.

SOURCE: 14 December 2020, [NPR](#)

(U) Montana – Neo-Nazi Website Founder Accused of Ignoring \$14M Judgment

(U) Missoula – A Montana real estate agent who secured a \$14 million judgment against a neo-Nazi website publisher for orchestrating an anti-Semitic harassment campaign against her Jewish family is seeking a court order compelling the man to disclose information about his assets and finances. Andrew Anglin, the founder and operator of The Daily Stormer, has yet to pay any portion of the August 2019 judgment and ignored requests for information about his whereabouts, operation of the website, and other assets. Anglin, a native of Ohio, has claimed to be living outside the US but his current whereabouts are unknown. Anglin’s site takes its name from Der Stürmer, a newspaper that published Nazi propaganda. The site includes sections called “Jewish Problem” and “Race War.”

SOURCE: 11 December 2020, [Fox15](#)

(U) New Jersey – Former Bin Laden Henchman Freed After Judge Deems Him a COVID-19 Risk

(U) Trenton – A former Osama bin Laden henchman convicted in two deadly 1998 bombings is free and living in the UK this week after being released early. Adel Abdel Bary, 60, spent 21 years in a New Jersey prison for his role in the 1998 al-Qa’ida bombings of two US embassies in Africa that killed 224 people, including 12 Americans. Bary was set to be freed on 28 October, but his attorneys asked he be let out sooner, citing their client’s medical condition. A federal judge ruled that the 230-pound terrorist was more at risk from COVID-19 and authorized his release for 9 October. An Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility turned Bary over to UK officials on Wednesday.

SOURCE: 12 December 2020, [Fox15](#)

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Lebanon – Hezbollah Operative Sentenced to Life for Hariri Killing

(U) Beirut – The UN-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon on Friday sentenced Hezbollah operative Salim Ayache to five concurrent life sentences in absentia for the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 others. The Hezbollah operative had a “central”, “leading role” as part of the assassination team that was “integral to the assassination.” Hariri’s 2005 assassination in a massive car bomb blast led to huge protests and international pressure that resulted in the eventual withdrawal of Syrian troops from the country. Ayache has never been apprehended and is thought to be under the protection of Hezbollah, whose leader Hasan Nasrallah has described him and three other Hezbollah members who stood trial for the crime, but were not found guilty, as “honorable men of the resistance.”
SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) Nigeria – Hundreds of Students Missing After Attack on School

(U) Lagos – Hundreds of Nigerian students are missing after gunmen attacked a secondary school in the country's northwestern Katsina state. This latest attack on a school by gunmen in Nigeria, is believed to have been carried out by one of several groups of bandits active in northwestern Nigeria. The groups are notorious for kidnapping people for ransom. Of the roughly 600 students, about 400 students are missing, while 200 are accounted for. The military, supported by airpower, has located the bandits’ enclave in a forest in the Kankara area. There have been exchanges of gunfire in an ongoing operation to rescue the students.
SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) Spain – Two Neo-Nazis Arrested for Selling Drugs to Buy Weapons for a Future Race War

(U) Lledia – Two neo-Nazis have been arrested for selling drugs to buy weapons for a future 'race war' following an investigation that has been ongoing for more than a year. The unnamed men intended to buy weapons and create isolated white supremacist groups. Officers discovered a Nazi flag and other white supremacist symbols during a search of their property. Police also found messages made by the suspects on social media that praised the man who killed several Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March 2019.
SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [The Daily Mail](#)

(U) Sudan – US Embassy Says Sudan No Longer on List of Terror Sponsors

(U) Khartoum – The US Embassy in Khartoum said that President Trump's administration has removed Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, a move that could help the African country get international loans to revive its battered economy and end its pariah status. Sudan's removal was effective as of Monday and a notification to that effect, signed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will be published in the Federal Register. Secretary Pompeo said that the removal came after Sudan’s transitional government met “the statutory and policy criteria” and charted a “bold new course away from the legacy” of former autocratic President Omar al-Bashir.
SOURCE: 13 December 2020, [The Daily Mail](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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